

Exhibit A

The abstract has been amended as follows:

~~One aspect of the present invention relates to a method for releasing a ligand from a complex thereof. The method comprises contacting a medium suspected of containing such complex with an effective amount of a compound effective in releasing the ligand. Another aspect of the present invention is an improvement in a method for the determination of an analyte that is a member of a specific binding pair in a sample suspected of containing such analyte. The method comprises the steps of (a) providing in an assay medium the sample and a binding partner for the analyte and (b) detecting the binding of the binding partner to the analyte. The improvement comprises including in the assay medium a compound of the invention in an amount sufficient to enhance the accuracy of the determination. The invention has particular application to a method for releasing mycophenolic acid from a complex thereof. The method provides an improvement in a method for the determination of mycophenolic acid in a sample suspected of containing mycophenolic acid. The present invention also provides assay reagents as well as packaged kits useful for performing the methods of the invention.~~

The present invention relates to a method for releasing a ligand from a complex of the ligand with an endogenous protein using a releasing agent. The releasing agent is an effective amount of a benzoic acid derivative.

The **specification** has been amended by adding the following paragraph:

This application is a divisional of U.S. 08/896,244 now U.S. 6,171,801 B1 and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/022,133 filed on July 18, 1996.